

Exceptional Student Services

Orthopedic Impairment

What is an Orthopedic Impairment (OI)?

Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS) §15-761(19) states: " 'Orthopedic impairment' means one or more severe orthopedic impairments and includes those that are caused by congenital anomaly, disease and other causes, such as amputation or cerebral palsy, and that adversely affect a child's performance in the educational environment."

Examples of orthopedic impairments that may be caused by birth defects are clubfoot and absence of one or more limbs. Orthopedic impairments that may be caused by disease include polio and arthritis. Other causes of orthopedic impairment may include fractures which cause stiff and/or immovable joints called contractures.

A student is determined eligible for special education services if: 1) the criteria of the state definition of a student with an orthopedic impairment is met, 2) the multidisciplinary evaluation team (MET) determines that the orthopedic impairment negatively impacts a student's educational performance, and 3) the child is in need of special education and/or related services to benefit from his/her education.

How Common is an Orthopedic Impairment?

In the 2001-02 school year, 739 students in Arizona were classified under Orthopedic Impairment and received special education services. This number represents 0.08 percent of the 922,280 students enrolled in Arizona public schools as of October 1, 2001.

What Effect Does an Orthopedic Impairment Have on a Child?

Some students are only mildly affected by their orthopedic impairment. Children who are moderately or severely affected may have difficulty with coordination, the ability to move, stamina, communication, or learning. Many times adjustments can be made in the environment and instruction and special education may not be needed in order for the child to make enough academic progress. Others may be extremely limited in their activities and learning and may require intensive medical and/or educational help.

Educational services are provided in a variety of settings including: regular classrooms, resource rooms, special classes, hospitals, the home, or special schools. The unique academic needs of each student, and required related services, are important considerations in determining placement in the least restrictive environment (LRE) for the student. Related services may include such things as assistive technology, special transportation, environmental adaptations,

adaptive physical education, occupational therapy, physical therapy, or school health services. Communication with the school will be extremely important for the success of any necessary therapies or modifications in the environment.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Amendments of '97 implementing federal regulations require all IEP teams to consider Assistive Technology (AT) along with other special factors. Orthopedic impairments usually require a more extensive evaluation to identify the child's unique educational needs.

References

National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities. (2000). *General information about cerebral palsy, fact sheet #2*. Washington, DC: NICHCY

Resources Books

Lockette, Kevin F., Keyes, Ann M., (1994). *Conditioning With physical disabilities: Expert exercise prescriptions for a variety of physical needs*.

Baker, B. L., Brightman, A. J., Blacher, J. B., & Heifetz, L. J. (1997). *Steps to independence: Teaching everyday skills to children with special needs*. Baltimore, MD: Brookes Publishing.

Geralis, E. (1998). *Children with cerebral palsy: A parent's guide*. Rockville, MD: Woodbine Books.

Miller, N. B. & Sammons, C. C. (1999). *Everybody's different: Understanding & changing our reactions to disabilities*. Baltimore, MD: Brookes Publishing

Videos

Video and book lending library bibliography. Special Needs Center, Phoenix Public Library, Phoenix, AZ.

Organizations/Hotlines/Web Sites

Spina Bifida Association of America
Arizona Chapters
<http://www.arizonasba.org/>
1001 E. Fairmont, Phoenix, AZ 85014
928-274-3323
2600 N. Wyatt, Tucson, AZ 85712
520-324-3340

Arc of Arizona, 5610 S. Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85040, 928-234-1787,
<http://www.arcarizona.org/>

Arizona Governor's Council on Spinal and Head Injuries, 10640 N. 28th Dr., Ste. B102, Phoenix, AZ 85029, 602-863-0484, <http://www.azrsa.org/head&spine>

Arizona State Braille and Talking Book Library, 1030 N. 32nd. St., Phoenix, AZ 85008,
928-255-5578 or 800-255-5578, <http://www.dlapr.lib.az.us/>

Arthritis Foundation, <http://www.arthritis.org/>
1313 E. Osborn, Ste. 200, Phoenix, AZ 85014, 602-264-0563
616 N. Country Club Rd., Tucson, AZ 85716, 520-917-7070
800-444-5426 Helpline

Children's Rehabilitative Services (CRS)
1215 N. Beaver St., Flagstaff, AZ 86001
928-773-2054 or 800-232-1018
124 W. Thomas St., Phoenix, AZ 85013
602-406-6400 or 800-392-2222
2600 N. Wyatt Dr., Tucson, AZ 85712
520-324-5437 or 800-231-8261
2400 Avenue A, Yuma, AZ 85364
928-344-7095

Easter Seals of Arizona, <http://www.easter-seals.org/>
903 N. 2nd St, Phoenix, AZ 85004-1996
602-252-6061 or 800-626-6061
5740 E. 22nd St., Tucson, AZ 85711
520-745-5222
661 E. 32nd St., Ste. A, Yuma, AZ 85364
928-726-6800

March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation
1616 E. Indian School Rd., Ste. 200, Phoenix, AZ 85016, 928-266-9933
7290 E. Broadway, Ste. G2, Tucson, AZ 85710
520-298-5490, <http://www.modimes.org/>

Multiple Sclerosis Society, <http://www.nmss.org/>
315 S. 48th St. #101, Tempe, AZ 85281
480-968-2488
626 N. Craycroft Rd., Ste. 116, Tucson, AZ 85711- 1441, 520-747-7472 or 800-737-8459

Muscular Dystrophy Association, <http://www.mdausa.org/>
10201 S. 51st St., Ste. 140, Phoenix, AZ 85044 928-496-4530
2900 N. Swan Rd., #201, Tucson, AZ 85712
520-795-3434

National Spinal Cord Injury Association
<http://www.spinalcord.org/>

Parent Information Network, Arizona Department of Education, Exceptional Student
Services, 1535 W. Jefferson, Phoenix, AZ 85007, 602-364-4015 or 800-352-4558,
<http://www.ade.az.gov/ess/pinspals/>

United Cerebral Palsy, www.ucpsa.org

321 W. Hatcher, #102, Phoenix, AZ 85021

602-943-5472

3941 East 29th Street, Ste. 601-604, Tucson, AZ 85711, 520-795-3108

Williams Syndrome Association, P.O. Box 297, Clawson, MI 48017-0297, 248-541-3630,

<http://www.williams-syndrome.org/>

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